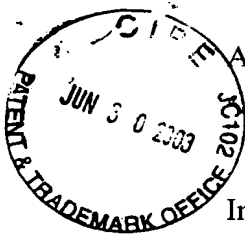


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re:

U.S. Application of: Tsutomu YAMAZAKI
For: APPARATUS, METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR IMAGE PROCESSING

Prior Application:

Confirmation No.: 9300
U.S. Serial No.: 09/557,151
Filed: April 25, 2000
Group Art Unit: 2624
Examiner: Anh Hong Do

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Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP CPA, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.
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Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The following Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted currently with the filing of a Continued Prosecution Application.

In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant wishes to bring the following items to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of each document is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

No representation is made, and no representation is intended, that more relevant material does not exist, or that the order of presentation of this material in any way reflects its relative pertinence. The references cited below are not intended to constitute an admission of any kind. Specifically, this presentation is not an admission that the items listed below are properly citable against the above-identified application.


Submitted herewith is a copy of the Translation of Notification of Reason For Refusal (April 22, 2003) for counterpart Japanese Patent Application No. (11) 1999-118578. The Japanese Notification cites the following references:

- (1) Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. (A) 10-42294, (FUJITSU GENERAL LTD), published February 13, 1998;
- (2) Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. (A) 9-98421, (TOSHIBA CORP), published April 8, 1997; and
- (3) Japanese Patent Application Laid-Open No. (A) 7-95578, (CANON INC), published April 7, 1995.

As this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the filing of the Continued Prosecution Application and within three months of the references being first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office for a counterpart foreign patent application, no fee is incurred. If it should be determined that a fee is required, please charge any required fee (other than the issue fee) during the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Serial No. 09/557,151

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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